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In the antitrust bar, generational strength matters.

On both sides of the Atlantic and indeed elsewhere, leaders of competition groups look at their rivals and their own practices and judge how strong their group will be – not in a year, but in a decade, when perhaps they will be attempting to chip out of a bunker or navigate some snow-packed slope. That is to say: young talent is crucial to the health of any competition group, and the more first-chair work they get as young lawyers, the brighter the future becomes.

With that in mind, *GCR* is proud to present the 2015 edition of the 40 under 40, our listing of 40 young antitrust practitioners from around the world. As with our previous four editions, this year's listing profiles young antitrust minds who have taken on leading roles within their firms, whether serving as one of the primary junior partners behind big-name rainmakers or, in some cases, as a central figure in a competition group. This year's list includes lawyers and barristers practising in countries around the globe.

In many parts of the world, international competition law enforcement has existed through generations. While major cross-border mergers and investigations may have been novel in decades past, young lawyers practising today know no other reality. Globalisation has transformed the practice just as it has transformed economy and industry.

The 40 under 40 entrants truly span the globe, from the “usual suspect” jurisdictions of the United States, the United Kingdom and Brussels, to Ukraine, Japan, Turkey and China. But suffice to say that most of the young lawyers included in the survey received at least part of their antitrust education in one of the global hubs of antitrust law.

Now in his third and final 40 under 40, Gönenç Gürkaynak, of ELİG in Istanbul, studied law at Harvard University and trained under Ian Forrester, a former White & Case partner who now sits on the bench of the European General Court. Having spent three years as an enforcer at Japan's Fair Trade Commission, new entrant Kentaro Hirayama, from Morrison & Foerster, spent time as a visiting associate at Slaughter and May

in London. And Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co partner Naval Chopra trained and practised as a lawyer in London before taking on competition law matters in New Delhi.

But it's the work these lawyers have done in their home jurisdictions that has earned them a place in this year's 40 under 40. Indeed, all of the nominated lawyers have worked on major mergers, cartel investigations and dominance cases – sometimes helping to usher in their country's competition law enforcement regime. Igor Svechkar, a partner at Asters in Kiev, practises at the firm where he started his career 16 years ago, and over that time he has seen his business grow alongside Ukrainian competition law.

This year, for the first time, the 40 under 40 includes two new sections highlighting the blossoming careers of young lawyers working in-house on the competition teams inside companies and within antitrust enforcement agencies around the world. Each section includes young lawyers and economists, each of whom has taken on senior-level duties inside their companies or agencies.

Our enforcers hail from the United States, the United Kingdom, Chile, Denmark and Mexico. Each brings a different skill set to bear on a varied collection of job duties. After eight years inside the agency, Carlos Mena has done everything in Mexican enforcement, from leading the enforcer's cartels unit to directing its interactions with outside agencies as head of the institutional relation and international affairs division. He is now chief prosecutor within Cofece, and he's only 36. Meanwhile, Sheldon Mills has made a precipitous climb through the ranks of the UK's former Office of Fair Trading to now head the mergers unit at the Competition and Markets Authority. And Javier Tapia oversees it all in Chile; he's a judge on the country's competition tribunal.

Meanwhile, our eight featured in-house lawyers lead competition groups from some of the world's largest and most dynamic companies – including three from a company embroiled, seemingly constantly, in antitrust controversy: Google.

## Gönenç Gürkaynak

Age:  
Position:  
Firm:  
City:

38  
Partner  
ELİG  
Istanbul



*“Competition law is a fascinating field of law and I find it difficult to understand why all lawyers don’t choose to practise in this area”*

### **Tell us about your work history:**

Before founding ELİG Attorneys-at-Law in 2005, I worked with a global law firm for more than eight years at their Istanbul, New York and Brussels offices. This is the third time I have been selected in the 40 under 40 survey and this is thanks to the wonderful team I work with at my law firm.

### **Why did you choose to practise competition law?**

Competition law requires a solid legal background, analytical thinking ability and an in-depth understanding of economics. It is a fascinating field of law and I find it difficult to understand why all lawyers don’t choose to practise in this area.

### **Who in competition was your mentor/who inspires you?**

At Harvard University I was a research assistant to Professor Louis Kaplow. During my years in Brussels I reported to Ian Forrester QC, now the UK’s designated judge at the General Court of the Court of Justice of the EU. Both were extremely influential in my development, along with many other mentors and teachers I have had throughout my career.

### **What competition enforcement trends do you anticipate developing by the time you are 45?**

I expect compliance programmes to be at the heart of what a competition lawyer does and I anticipate preventive measures gaining more value.

### **What trends are developing in your jurisdiction?**

As expected, the Competition Board shifted its focus from standard merger control cases to the fight against cartels and to challenging certain types of unilateral conduct, after the revisions on jurisdictional thresholds of notification.

### **What advice would you give to those starting out in competition law?**

Know that you are in a field of law that particularly requires complex knowledge of precedents, doctrine, trends and markets. Go get the knowledge, and always question the legal policy implications.

### **What firm do you admire from afar?**

I have the pleasure of working with many respected law firms from around the globe, including the US, UK, Europe and Japan. Naming one firm or two is neither possible nor wise for a local counsel of preference of many well respected law firms in a given jurisdiction.

### **Aside from competition law, what do you enjoy doing?**

Scuba diving in underwater caves and wrecks, sailing at the Aegean sea and Mehmet-ing (Mehmet is the name of my three-year-old son) in the garden.